The two subsidiary companies, Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited have inherent problems like difficult geo-mining conditions under which they operate and the continued problems of inadequate and erratic power supply, law and order, absenteeism delay in opening new projects due to obstruction by local youths demanding employment and non-availability of land.

The various measures being adopted to increase production and improve productivity in the companies include considerable investment in new mines, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more efficient use and better maintenance of equipment, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus workers and their re-deployment after suitable training, better availability of scarce inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditions and timely completion of new projects and improvement in law and order situation. For easy ushering in of new technology, collaborations are sought with expert countries which include supply of initial sets of equipment and training of the Indian Engineers and workers both within the country and abroad.

The Government have also appointed two Committees to go into the working of Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited and suggest measures for improving performance of these companies.

Production of coal

1503. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of coal during these years was below or above the target;

(c) if so, what are the figures; and

(d) the price of coal during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The target and actual production of coal in the country during the last three years are as under:

(Figures in million tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual production
1982-83	133.00	130.50
1983-84	142.00	138.22
1984-85	152.00	147.40

(d) The average pithead prices of coal during the last three years is as under:

Date of revision	Average pit-head price of coal (Rs. per tonne)	
	CIL	SCCL
27-5-1982	145.90	154.75
6-1-1984	183.00	192.00
9-1-1986	210.00	219.00

Demand for LPG Cylinders in West Bengal

1504. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for LPG cylinders in West Bengal is much more than the production of cylinders in the state;